

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 and 18-29 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 1-16 and 29 are under examination while claims 18-28 are withdrawn as belong to a different restriction group. In view of the amendments and comments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claims 1-16 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiners states that while the specification is enabling for branched hydrophilic polyhydroxy-functional polymers that are derived from sugar and sugar alcohols crosslinked with epichlorohydrin, it does not reasonably provide enablement for any polyhydroxy-functional polymers. The Examiner states that the specification provides no direction or working examples for any polymer other than epichlorohydrin crosslinked sugar. The Examiner notes that the only portions of the specification that described the polymer is the second full paragraph on page 12 and illustrative examples, and these paragraphs exemplify only the epichlorohydrin crosslinked polysaccharides.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides ample support for other branched polyhydroxy-functional polymers. In addition to

polymers derived from sugar and sugar alcohols crosslinked with epichlorohydrin (e.g., page 12, lines 12-27; page 13, lines 4-19; Examples 3-10), the specification describes and exemplifies other polymers suitable for the invention. For Example, page 13, line 25 to page 14 line 16, describes epoxide monomers such as glycidol or allyl glycidyl ether, which are suitable for forming branched polyhydroxy-functional polymers or copolymers. In the Examples section, polyglycidol is produced and coupled to a base matrix in Example 1, while poly(allyl glycidyl ether-co-glycidol) is produced and coupled to a base matrix in Example 2. The binding capacity of both shows a great increase compared to prior art Sepharose XL (Figures 1 and 2).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-16 and 29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement can not be sustained and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-16 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In response, Applicants have amended the base claim to remove the recitation "include hyperbranched polymers" from line 4 of claim 1. Applicants have also amended claim 1 to clarify that "each polymer" means each branched polymer, not each chain of the polymer. The dependent claims have also been amended for

consistency. Applicants submit that the claim language, as amended, is clear and definite.

Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, clearly defines the invention. It is the “branched hydrophilic polyhydroxy-functional polymers” that are “tethered to the base matrix”. Further, each “polymer” is now clearly stated to mean each “branched hydrophilic polyhydroxy-functional polymer”, not each polymer chain. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, should be withdrawn.

Examiner have identified two prior art references of record as pertinent to the disclosure. One of these was referred to as 330747, disclosing branched polyhydroxy functional polymers. Applicants request clarification as Applicants believe Examiner meant US 3300474, which was cited on the last page of the office action (Notice of References Cited).


Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 1-16 and 29.

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Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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